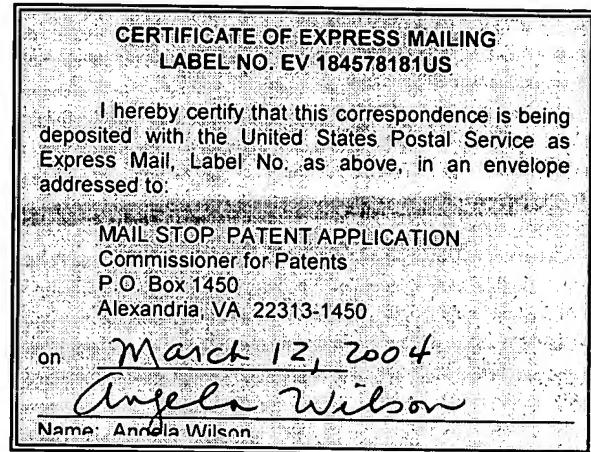


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Burns, Raymond W.
For : HOLLOW AUGER HEAD ASSEMBLY
U.S. Serial No.: New Filing
Filed: New Filing
Group Art Unit: 36727
Examiner: William P. Neuder

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies a Request for filing a Continuation of parent application Serial No. 10/183,212, filed June 27, 2002. Before examining the new continuation application, please enter this Preliminary Amendment.